

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, March 22, 2022

Hilary Weeks and Patrick Williamson were in attendance (in-person); Rebecca Coletta participated remotely via Zoom. The hybrid meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Robert Baker, Janine Parker, Gary Rzab, Kris Bissell, Peter Lapointe, Kimberly Longey, Ellen Gallerani, and Alice Schertle also attended remotely. The minutes of March 8, 2022 were accepted as submitted.

Building Commissioner

Charlene Baiardi of Chesterfield introduced herself to the Board expressing her interest in serving as Interim Building Commissioner. Recently retired as inspector from Hadley, she has worked in the business since 2003 in Springfield as well as in Huntington and Goshen; She currently works in Worthington. In answer to Patrick's question Charlene expressed her interest in serving as Plainfield's interim building commissioner until the end of the fiscal year and may be interested in staying longer. She is a certified Building Commissioner. Hilary moved to appoint Charlene Baiardi as Interim Building Commissioner through June 30, 2022. The motion, seconded by Patrick, was unanimously approved (Hilary, yes, Patrick, yes, Rebecca, yes).

Police Chief

Chief Litchfield addressed call data for 2021, said data being 1,641 pages which is in the process of being condensed.

A drop off kiosk for expired medications, drugs, etc. is to be installed in the entry of the police station courtesy of the Med Grant. The kiosk is a secured drop off site. Needles are not accepted.

The February call log was read. Rebecca asked what "disturbance" referred to with Justin replying a "domestic call" to which Plainfield responded first with state police arriving 30 minutes later. An example of "community service" would be house alarms.

Kimberly Longey inquired about the status of technical issues. Justin has been working with Chief Perkins, Cummington, He noted most of the issues are with the Northampton police barracks and are being addressed.

Proposed By-Laws

The Conservation Commission submitted text for a proposed Wetlands Protection By-Law. Hilary expressed her concerns about the proposed change from 100' to 200' for building near wetlands. She also noted the inclusion of a 50' no disturbance zone. She added the by-law seems to give the Conservation Commission total control and does not agree with expanding beyond state conservation regulations. Pleun Bouricius referenced the service Western Massachusetts provides to the rest of the state. Hilary countered "state guidelines are enough". Jerry Little, Planning Board, referenced the Climate Resiliency report which will be available soon. Rebecca moved to place the proposed Wetlands Protection By-Law on the Town Meeting warrant. The motion, seconded by Patrick, was approved as follows: Hilary, no; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes. The 10-page text will be sent to Town Counsel for review.

The Board also received text for an MLP Board By-Law as mentioned at a previous meeting by MLP Manager Kimberly Longey. The Board agreed to place the article on the Town Meeting warrant. The article will be sent to Town Counsel for review.

Community Policing Survey

Hilary stated the agreed upon additions to the survey document were made and survey results were published by March 15, 2022; There were no deletions. She referenced the January 25, 2022 meeting of the Select Board at which the Board said data from the survey is to be used by the Board. Pleun Bouricius proposed two public forums prior to town meeting. West Street resident Joe Schneider stated the survey is old news and supports Hilary's comments. Patrick added it would be OK to hear people's comments. Finance Committee member Roberta Wooldridge added town meeting is about budgets and funding stating time and effort has been spent on building the police department with trained officers; the Town can't start from zero with new laws, etc. Joe Schneider expressed concerns about happenings in town with roads and police. He spoke to the need to reduce taxes. Hilary is not in support of the Select Board facilitating public meetings on the survey. Patrick sees no reason to discourage getting together for discussion without the Board. He doesn't want to see the process stop. Rebecca stated this provides an opportunity to address/discuss issues in a community forum and encourages outreach. Kimberly will write up the Working Group's perspective on the policing survey.

FY23 Budget/Town Meeting Warrant

The Board agreed to level fund the following salary accounts for FY23 pending Finance Committee COLA recommendations: Treasurer, Accountant, Administrative Secretary, and Tax Collector. The Board also agreed to level fund

the Town Counsel and ADA accounts.

Articles proposed for the Town Meeting warrant include the establishment a Fire Truck Stabilization Account, Town Hall Heating System, lawnmower, Whip City Fiber FY21 invoice, Highway Department pick-up truck, and to rescind the unused loan authorization for the broadband network. Hilary moved to close the Annual Town meeting warrant to the submission of articles. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was approved as follows: Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes.

Correspondence

The Board received an email from H. Bronstein with Rebecca Coletta's response.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

A motion to adjourn was entertained at 8:12 p.m. Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary